

Federal Communications Commission

§ 0.466

Affairs, Consumer Assistance and Small Business Division, Telephone (202) 632-7000.

(2) Copies of computer generated data stored as paper printouts or on microfiche may also be obtained from the Commission's duplicating contractor (see paragraph (a) of this section).

(d)(3) Copies of computer source programs and associated documentation produced by the Commission shall be obtained from the Office of the Managing Director.

(e) This section has no application to printed publications, which may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents or private firms (see §§ 0.411 through 0.420). Nor does it apply to application forms or information bulletins, which are prepared for the use and information of the public and are available upon request (see §§ 0.421 and 0.423).

(f) Anyone requesting copies of documents pursuant to this section may select either the Commission or the contractor to fulfill the request. If a request goes directly to the contractor, the requester will be charged by the contractor pursuant to the price list set forth in the latest contract. If a request goes directly to the Commission, it shall be sent to the Office of the Managing Director for appropriate processing according to the fee standards established under the FOIA.

(Secs. 4, 303, 307, 48 Stat., as amended, 1066, 1082, 1083; 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 397; 47 CFR 0.231(d))

[32 FR 10573, July 19, 1967, as amended at 41 FR 51610, Nov. 23, 1976; 45 FR 85028, Dec. 24, 1980; 49 FR 13368, Apr. 4, 1984; 51 FR 34982, Oct. 1, 1986; 52 FR 36774, Oct. 1, 1987; 53 FR 39093, Oct. 5, 1988; 64 FR 60725, Nov. 8, 1999; 67 FR 13222, Mar. 21, 2002]

§ 0.466 Definitions.

(a) For the purpose of §§ 0.467 and 0.468, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) The term *direct costs* means those expenditures which the Commission actually incurs in searching for and duplicating (and in case of commercial requesters, reviewing) documents to respond to a FOIA request. Direct costs include the salary of the employee performing the work (the basic rate of pay for the employee plus 16 percent of that rate to cover benefits), and the cost of

operating duplicating machinery. Not included in direct costs are overhead expenses, such as costs of space, and heating or lighting the facility in which the records are stored.

(2) The term *search* includes all time spent looking for material that is responsive to a request, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material contained within documents. Such activity should be distinguished, however, from "review" of material in order to determine whether the material is exempt from disclosure (see paragraph (a)(3) of this section).

(3) The term *review* refers to the process of examining documents located in response to a commercial use request (see paragraph (a)(4) of this section) to determine whether any portion of a document located is exempt from disclosure. It also includes processing any documents for disclosure, e.g., performing such functions that are necessary to excise them or otherwise prepare them for release. Review does not include time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of FOIA exemptions.

(4) The term *commercial use* request refers to a request from or on behalf of one who seeks information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial interests of the requester. In determining whether a requester properly falls within this category, the Commission shall determine the use to which a requester will put the documents requested. Where the Commission has reasonable cause to question the use to which a requester will put the documents sought, or where that use is not clear from the request itself, the Commission shall seek additional clarification before assigning the request to a specific category.

(5) The term *educational institution* refers to a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution or graduate higher education, an institution of professional education and an institution of vocational education, which operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(6) The term *non-commercial scientific institution* refers to an institution that is not operated on a commercial basis as that term is referenced in paragraph

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(a)(4) of this section, and which is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(7) The term *representative of the news media* refers to any person actively gathering news for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. The term *news* means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public. Examples of news media entities include television or radio stations broadcasting to the public at large, and publishers of periodicals (but only in those instances where they can qualify as disseminators of “news”) who make their products available for purchase or subscription by the general public. These examples are not intended to be all inclusive. Moreover, as traditional methods of news delivery evolve (e.g., electronic dissemination of newspapers through telecommunications services), such alternative media would be included in this category. In the case of “freelance” journalists, they may be regarded as working for a news organization if they can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication through that organization, even though not actually employed by it.

[53 FR 39093, Oct. 5, 1988]

§0.467 Search and review fees.

(a)(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, an hourly fee shall be charged for recovery of the full, allowable direct costs of searching for and reviewing records requested under §0.460(e) or §0.461, unless such fees are precluded or waived pursuant to §0.470. The fee is based on the grade level of the employee(s) who conduct(s) the search or review, as specified in the following schedule:

Grade	Hourly fee
GS-1	12.85
GS-2	13.99
GS-3	15.77
GS-4	17.70
GS-5	19.80
GS-6	22.07
GS-7	24.53
GS-8	27.17
GS-9	30.00
GS-10	33.04
GS-11	36.30

Grade	Hourly fee
GS-12	43.51
GS-13	51.74
GS-14	61.14
GS-15	71.92

NOTE: These fees will be modified periodically to correspond with modifications in the rate of pay approved by Congress.

(2) The fees in paragraph (a)(1) of this section were computed at Step 5 of each grade level based on the General Schedule effective January 2007 and include 20 percent for personnel benefits.

(b) Search fees may be assessed for time spent searching, even if the Commission fails to locate the records or if the records are determined to be exempt from disclosure.

(c) The Commission shall charge only for the initial review, i.e., the review undertaken initially when the Commission analyzes the applicability of a specific exemption to a particular record. The Commission shall not charge for review at the appeal level of an exemption already applied. However, records or portions of records withheld in full under an exemption that is subsequently determined not to apply may be reviewed again to determine the applicability of other exemptions not previously considered. The costs of such a subsequent review, under these circumstances, are properly assessable.

(d) The fee charged will not exceed an amount based on the time typically required to locate records of the kind requested.

(e) If the Commission estimates that search charges are likely to exceed \$25 or the amount which the requester indicated he/she is prepared to pay, then it shall notify the requester of the estimated amount of fees. Such a notice shall offer the requester the opportunity to confer with Commission personnel with the object of revising or clarifying the request.

(f) When the search has been completed, the custodian of the records will give notice of the charges incurred to the person who made the request.

(g) The fee shall be paid to the Financial Management Division, Office of Managing Director, or as otherwise directed by the Commission.

(h) Records shall be inspected within 7 days after notice is given that they have been located and are available for